

From: normdn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to log my opinion re the importance of the DoJ coming to a quick and fair settlement. The courts earlier offer I thought was a fair and generous one and was disappointed to see that the judge overseeing did not agree. It is time for the DoJ and the other states that did not go along with the initial settlement to bring this to a speedy recovery. I was especially disapointed to see that my own state of Iowa did not join in the earlier settlement offer and decided to continue to spend my tax payer on continued litigation. The only benefactors of this continues to be the lawyers. I was also disappointed to see that AOL has now joined to try to get an additional piece of the pie. Netscape did not gain market share because they were trying to milk the consumer for additional revenue for a service that a competitor was able to offer for free. Getting out smarted should not be the basis of litigation in the open marketplace. It is only hurting consumers such as myself and the free enterprise system if companies such as Microsoft are forced to continue to battle and sacrifice vital research and developepment dollars to defend themselves. AOL appears now to try want to salvage their overpayment(billions) for Netscape by taking advantage of the DoJ's incapacity to accept a valid legal settlement agreement with continued interference and indecision. Its time to move on and let the free marketplace and the consumer decide who are winners and who are losers. And its time for the DoJ to do the same and turn their energies to more important pressing national security issues. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Respectfully,
Norman D Nieuwenhuis
Orange City, IA